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CONFERENCE ON AFGHANISTAN

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11. (U) We contacted Marje Luup, Estonian MFA External Economic and Development Cooperation Division Director, to discuss points in reftel and emphasize the importance the USG places on this initiative. On April 21, Luup confirmed to us that Foreign Minister Urmas Paet plans to attend the conference and hopes to speak on the importance of supporting Afghanistan. Luup said the GOE does not yet know how much it will pledge or if Estonia will be ready to announce the amount of its donation publicly at the Paris Conference. However, Luup indicated that the GOE's contribution will likely be considerable in relation to Estonia's size. (Note: Estonia's current budget includes approximately USD 400,000 in assistance aid to Afghanistan for 2008, which is 10 percent of its total assistance budget. End Note)

PHILLIPS